

The Wasatch Stake Tithing Office, built in 1888 on Main Street in Heber, was an important building during the years when so much tithing was paid "in kind."

Built by James Duke

level was divided into bins for storage of different grains. A stairway and also a hand-operated elevator connected the two stories.

A large hay barn and hay shed occupied the east portion of the block. At harvest time it was quite common to have both buildings filled with hay and several stacks of hay in the yard. As many as 15 loads of hay would often be unloaded in a day as conscientious farmers gave their "tenth" to the Lord.

Elder Moulton, the tithing clerk, worked long hours to receive and account for the tithing paid "in kind." He usually opened the office at 7 a.m. and rarely closed before 6 p.m. He had to help with all the unloading and handling of the products. As there was no railroad service, all of the commodities shipped to Salt Lake City or other areas had to go out by wagon. At one time more than 300 bushels of potatoes were shipped from Heber and Wallsburg. The tithing clerk also had to do the painting and repairing of the buildings, and make out all the reports that were sent to the Presiding Bishop's Office in Salt Lake City.

Other tithing clerks who followed Elder Moulton included George Harbour, William Lindsay and Robert Duke.

Some years after the construction of the tithing office a remodeling project was carried out to add a baptismal font in the east room on the main floor. Prior to this the stake had conducted baptismal services once each summer at the Provo River, Spring Creek, the Millpond or some other designated place. The day was always an occasion as families

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gathered in their wagons or buggies, on horseback or on foot to participate in the "baptizing day."

Authorities of the stake realized the need for a baptismal font where the ordinance could regularly be performed, and so the facilities were constructed in the tithing office where services were held monthly.

A devastating fire on the grounds and out-buildings surrounding the tithing office broke out during a peaceful night in the fall of 1903, and before the bucket brigade could bring sufficient water to the scene the hay, barns and sheds were destroyed. The brigade saved the tithing office itself, however. This fire virtually brought an end to the payment of tithing "in kind." Farmers were urged to sell their produce and pay their tithes in cash. More adequate baptismal facilities were constructed in the new high school seminary building about this time, also, and the usefulness of the tithing office began to wane. The building was sold to Labon Hylton who converted it into two apartments, and then sold the property to Lowe Ashton who constructed a modern service station on the site.



BISHOP THOMAS RASBAND
first bishop of Heber East Ward.

When Bishop Thomas Rasband of Heber East Ward died Robert S. Duke was called as the new bishop. His counselors were Orson Hicken and Henry Ohlweiler. Bishop Duke served until 1901 when he was ordained a Patriarch of the Wasatch Stake. However, the ward didn't lose Bishop Duke, for his son, Robert Duke became the new bishop, with Orson Hicken and George Wootton as counselors.

In the West Ward, Bishop Forman served until 1885 when he was succeeded by Bishop Henry Clegg. Thomas Hicken Jr. was sustained as the third bishop of the ward in 1894 and served until 1902 when he moved with his family to Raymond, Alberta, Canada. At the time he moved, plans were underway by the stake presidency to dissolve the two Heber Wards and create three new wards, so no new bishop was sustained.

Those who served in leadership capacities in the East and West Wards before the reorganization were as follows:

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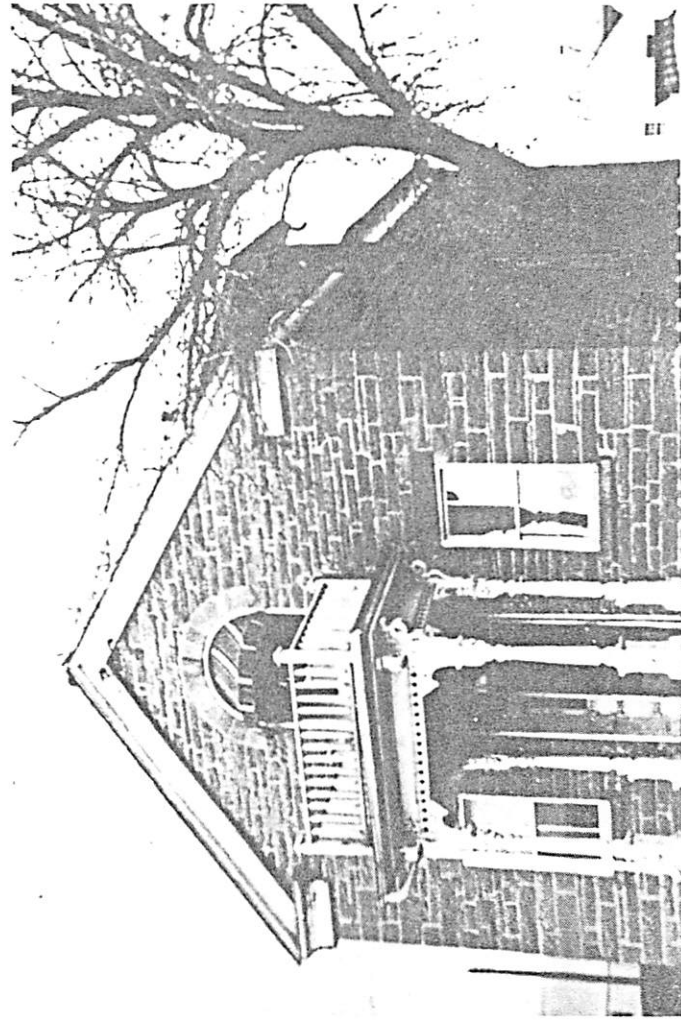
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separate dressing area for boys and girls by partitioning off space with bedsheets.



Old Tithing Office was located 106 North Main. Early baptisms performed in basement.

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